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THE SUNDAY UNION.

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they have no competitors either in influence

home and general circulation throughout the

State.

TO THE CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR.

Up to the present time the current

campaign has been spiritless. If the speeches

of candidates and campaign orators are to

be accepted as a true indication, the cam-

paign is almost, if not entirely, without

issues worthy the attention of any intelli-

gent elector. This cannot be attributed

to the State government of the most vital im-

portance to the people of this State. Such

issues exist, and we propose herein

to call the attention of candidates for Gov-

ernor to at least some of them.

1. The mortgage on the real estate of

California are increasing at an alarming

rate. In 1880 the total mortgage on real

property in this State was \$93,811,171. In

1889 it had risen to \$145,738,988, an

increase of about \$52,000,000 in eight years.

We have not the figures of the volume of

mortgages for 1890, but hereafter it is

probable that the increase is going steadily

forward. We respectfully ask the candi-

dates for Governor why the mortgages on

the real property of the State are con-

stantly increasing, and why this apparent

retrogression cannot be arrested by wise

legislation?

2. During the decade from 1880 to 1870

the percentage of personal property found

on the assessment roll was an average of

about 46 per cent. In 1861 it reached

49.62 per cent, that is to say, in 1861, of

every one hundred dollars on the assess-

ment roll, \$49.62 represented personal

and \$50.38 represented real property.

Thus the burden of taxation upon the two

classifications of wealth was about equally

divided. In that year the rate of State

taxation was 60 cents on each one hundred

dollars. The aggregate of assessable prop-

erty was \$174,044,965. In 1890 the total

assessed value of property in California

was about \$1,200,000,000, or equal to seven

times the aggregate of 1861, and the rate

of taxation is 72.2 cents on the hundred

dollars. Or to state this in a different

form, with seven times the assessed value

of property in the State, the rate has in-

creased from 60 cents on each hundred dol-

lars to 72.2. If the rate had remained the

same as in 1861 it would have been equi-

valent to seven times 60 cents or \$4.20 on

the hundred, on the basis of governmental

expenditures in 1861. Will the gentlemen

who aspire to be chief magistrate of this

State explain this fearful increase of State

expenditure? As already noted, the per-

centage of personal to real property found

on the assessment roll was about 50 per

cent; in 1881 the proportion of

personal property had fallen to 15 per

cent; that is to say, for every one hundred

dollars found on the assessment roll of

property but \$15 is chargeable to personal

property and \$85 is chargeable to real

estate. Thus the real estate is carrying 85

per cent. of the burden of government,

and the wealth represented by per-

sonal property is in hiding. Will the

gentlemen who are candidates for

Governor of the State, and who will

wield a power equal to two-thirds of the

legislative department, make note of this

decrease in the assessed value of personal

property and the consequent increase of

the burden on the real estate, and propose

an intelligent remedy?

3. The cost of State and municipal

governments of this State has been

ascertained to be \$22,000,000 per annum.

Of this sum, the real estate is paying

about \$19,000,000 and the personal prop-

erty about \$3,000,000. In addition to

this tax of \$19,000,000 per annum, there is

an interest account chargeable on ac-

count of mortgages of \$12,000,000, so that

in the aggregate the real estate is paying

\$31,000,000 per annum to the support of

government and \$12,000,000 interest on

mortgages; total, \$43,000,000 per annum.

It must be true in the nature of things

that real estate, and the industries con-

nected therewith, have to earn this \$43,-

000,000 which it pays annually for taxes

and interest. We ask the gentlemen who

are candidates for Governor how much in-

crease in this direction the reality of Cal-

ifornia can stand, and whether or not the

constant tendency of that increase may

not be arrested?

4. If a fair proportion of personal and

real property in the State had been main-

tained on the assessment roll and the

personal property was to-day carrying its

fair proportion of the burden of govern-

THE BISARA OF POOREE.

Little Bisara, the son of a miserly

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